

**You are invited**

**28TH ANNUAL IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL**

# LEAP YEAR EVENT

**Thursday, February 23, 2023**

**ADDITIONAL CONVERSATIONS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

**Virtual Reception • 5:30–6:15 p.m. EST**

**Honoring Rosa DeLauro, Toni Walker, and Bonnie Scarborough**

**LEAP Year Conversations • 7 p.m. EST** *unless otherwise noted*

**An Elegant Evening of Fine Dining and Conversation**

**Hosted at homes and restaurants in Greater New Haven, New York City, and virtually.**

See old friends and make new connections online at our virtual reception hosted by Executive Director Henry Fernandez and featuring our honorees.

Following the reception, you'll proceed to one of 23 engaging conversations. Options include in-person dinner parties limited to approximately 20 guests OR larger Zoom conversations with dinner choices available from local restaurants. Additional conversations will take place on Saturday, February 18, and Saturday, February 25, at 7 p.m. *Please note that COVID testing for attendance at in-person events may be required.*

All proceeds benefit LEAP. We thank everyone—our Sponsors, Guests of Honor, and Dinner Guests—who make this event possible. We expect in-person dinner parties to fill quickly, and restaurant dinners for virtual conversations are limited, so sign up early! For updates and any COVID-19 related changes, please see our website and emails.

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE**  
**[www.leapforkids.org/LYE](http://www.leapforkids.org/LYE)**

● **BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW** ●

**Additional dinners on Saturday, February 18 & February 25**

**Thursday, February 23, 2023**

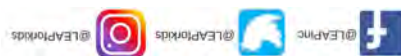
We encourage you to join us at our reception—virtually via Livestream—where we will honor **Rosa DeLauro, Toni Walker, and Bonnie Scarborough** as well as hear from LEAP staff and counselors.

## LEAP YEAR EVENT Invitation

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## ABOUT THE EVENT

LEAP Year Event is a cherished New Haven tradition: an evening of camaraderie, dining, and a chance to make a difference in the lives of youth in New Haven. In these challenging times, your investment in children, teens, and families is more important than ever. Some of the value of LEAP Year Event is that it sheds a light on the importance of coming together to do good things for children but also to make a difference in New Haven.

The 28th annual LEAP Year Event begins with a virtually streamed reception, after which guests will attend conversations hosted by generous LEAP supporters in their homes, other elegant venues, or virtually. Delicious dinners will be served at in-person conversations or available from local restaurants for virtual options.

LEAP Year Event is LEAP's most successful fundraiser. One hundred percent of your ticket price goes directly to LEAP's programs. Your support ensures that LEAP continues to Create a New Haven for All Our Children.

## ABOUT LEAP

LEAP was established in 1992 to advance racial equity by providing free social and academic enrichment, mentorship, and leadership opportunities for children and teens in New Haven's low-income neighborhoods. LEAP trains children in art, computer science, swimming, athletics, camping, cooking, and team building. LEAP will serve more than 1,200 children and will employ over 250 young people in 2023. We are New Haven's largest youth agency and youth employer.

Following a tremendous year of growth in the numbers of youth we can serve in 2022, LEAP now operates at eight community-based sites, including the LEAP Community Center on Jefferson Street and the newly opened Dixwell Q House that LEAP manages. In 2023, LEAP is focusing its work on deepening its afterschool and summer literacy and social-emotional curricula. Teens in the LEAP program are interns, working with LEAP counselors as classroom assistants and in so doing developing valuable teaching and mentorship skills. LEAP youth counselors receive personalized and small-group college application support through our revamped college access program, which continues to grow in 2023 as we provide support for admissions and the financial aid process. LEAP also plans to include a phonics component in its literacy-based program for children to help our youngest LEAPers become strong readers. Your participation in LEAP Year Event supports all this work.

# LEAP YEAR DINNERS 2023

## OPTION 1 ● In-Person Dinner Parties

- Each dinner party will be limited to approximately 20 participants including the Hosts and Guest(s) of Honor.
- Tickets are first-come, first-served, so sign up early!
- Participants will dine together following a presentation by the Guest of Honor.
- Dinner-Included Tickets are required for these dinner parties.
- Participants may be required to take an in-home COVID test before in-person dinner parties.
- It is possible that some in-person dinner parties may shift to virtual events if circumstances require. Check the LEAP website and email for changes.

### In-Person Dinner Parties ● Thursday, February 23 ● 7 p.m. EST

#### 1. ADVOCATE FOR ALTERNATIVES

Did you know the U.S. leads the world in rates of incarceration? Be inspired as you learn about The Vera Institute of Justice, founded in 1961 to advocate for alternatives to the bail system in NYC. Meet President and Director **Nick Turner**, who leads Vera's work to end mass incarceration, reduce the use of prisons and detention centers, safeguard the dignity of those behind bars, and support safe and thriving communities.

*Hosted by Celeste & Stephen Myers at the Harvard Club, New York City*

#### 2. HOMETOWN HEARTBREAK 📖

Explore *The Other Side of Prospect* with writer **Nicholas Dawidoff**, as he reflects on his childhood home of New Haven and how the injustices of racism and inequality have reverberated through generations. His beautifully written portrait of life in the Elm City is told through unforgettable people and their intertwined experiences.

*Hosted by Christine Kim & Doug Kysar, New Haven*

#### 3. UNDERSTANDING UKRAINE

Dig into the heroic struggle of the Ukrainian people against the Russian invasion with **Marci Shore**, Associate Professor of European Cultural & Intellectual History at Yale. Her research focuses on the intellectual history of twentieth and twenty-first-century Central and Eastern Europe, including recent publications "Invisible Bridges: On Ukraine, Russia, and Friendships" and "Why Ukrainians are Prepared to Fight."

*Hosted by Patricia Rossi & Robert King, New Haven*

#### 4. A DELICIOUS PARTNERSHIP

Enjoy the tastes of the Caribbean at this special dinner, a collaboration between **Kismet Douglass** of Momma Kiss Kitchen Cuisine and **Maxine Harris** of Je T'aime Cupcakes and Cocktails, who are part of the movement to diversify business ownership in New Haven. Joined by CitySeed Executive Director **Cortney Renton**, they will speak about their experiences as food entrepreneurs based at the commercial kitchen in the newly opened Dixwell Community Q House.

*Hosted by Susan Kerley at the Q House, New Haven*

#### 5. TALK OF THE TOWN 📖

Be part of a meaningful conversation with **Michelle Wilde Anderson**, former LEAP Counselor, Professor of Law at Stanford Law School, Professor at Stanford School of Sustainability, and author of *The Fight to Save the Town: Reimagining America*. Her work documents how leaders and residents in four blue-collar communities are facing down some of the hardest challenges in American poverty today.

*Hosted by Kasia Lipska & Jake Halpern, New Haven*

*\*Note: In-person dinner with the Guest of Honor on Zoom & opportunity for 10 additional guests to join on Zoom*

#### 6. MEDICAL MYSTERIES

Prepare for a puzzling evening with stories of medical mysteries presented by **Dr. Lisa Sanders** who writes *Diagnosis* for the New York Times Magazine. As Associate Professor and Director of the Writers Workshop at Yale School of Medicine, she leads a multidisciplinary approach to understanding and treating the mystifying symptoms caused by long-COVID.

*Hosted by Shelley & Gordon Geballe, Branford*

#### 7. SHOWTIME! 6:45 p.m. start followed by 8 p.m. performance

Begin a dazzling evening at the Shubert Theatre in conversation with Executive Director **Anthony McDonald** and Shubert historian **Anthony Lupinacci** over festive cocktails and gourmet hors d'oeuvres followed by the Shubert performance by *Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo*, an internationally beloved troupe of male dancers performing a brilliant combination of skillful pointe work and hilarious parodies of classical ballet favorites.

*Hosted by Ruby Melton & Bill Aseltyn at the Shubert Theatre, New Haven*

#### 8. TAKE HEART!

Your heart will soar when you meet **Dr. Erica Spatz**, cardiologist and clinical investigator at Yale's Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE). Learn about the factors contributing to cardiovascular disease and how to work with your medical team to protect and improve your healthy heart.

*Hosted by Debra & Ron Nudel, Woodbridge*

#### 9. SECRETS IN THE STACKS 5:30 p.m. start at Beinecke Library

Book a special evening when **Michael Morand**, Director of Community Engagement at Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, guides a private viewing of original W.E.B. Du Bois manuscripts and first editions in the Beinecke Library. Guests will learn of DuBois's impact on civil rights in America and his many ties to New Haven.

*Hosted by Andrea & Jeremy Asnes, with dinner to follow at Mory's Association, New Haven*

#### 10. I'LL TAKE NEW HAVEN 📖

Learn new reasons to enjoy New Haven as **Lary Bloom** discusses his latest book, *I'll Take New Haven: Tales of Discovery and Rejuvenation*. Travel with the author as he moves from the Connecticut countryside to the city and rediscovers his love of New Haven and its residents.

*Hosted by Meg & George Knight, New Haven*

#### 11. PICTURE PERFECT EVENING 6:30 p.m. tour start with dinner to follow

Enjoy a private tour with **Stephanie Wiles**, Henry J. Heinz II Director of the Yale Art Gallery, and **Jessie Park**, Assistant Curator of European Art, who will guide you through the multidisciplinary exhibit, *Crafting Worldviews: Art and Science in Europe, 1500–1800*, examining the relationships among art, science, and colonialism in shaping Europeans' understanding of the world and their place in it.

*Hosted by Gisela & Richard Goldstein, followed by dinner at Union League Café, New Haven*

#### 12. COSMIC CONVERSATION 📖

Orbit with **Dr. Priyamvada Natarajan**, Chair of Astronomy at Yale, to delve into her book, *Mapping the Heavens: The Radical Scientific Ideas That Reveal the Cosmos*. She will speak of the ever-expanding theories and tools now available to probe and understand the universe over time.

*Hosted by Lely & David Evans at Berkeley College, New Haven*

#### 13. A CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN

Learn about how early life experiences shape our thinking and passions with **Allyx Schiavone**, Executive Director of Friends Center for Children. Her commitment to quality child care is having a direct impact on the future of our New Haven community and economy. Light piano music will be provided by **Andy Rubenoff**.

*Hosted by Francine Farkas Sears at Taste of China, New Haven*

#### 14. GOSPEL MUSICOLOGY 📖

Rejoice with **Reverend Doctor Braxton Shelley**, Associate Professor of Music, of Sacred Music, and of Divinity at Yale Divinity School, a musicologist, active performer and ordained minister who specializes in African American gospel performance. He will share music theory insights from his award-winning book, *Healing for the Soul: Richard Smallwood, the Vamp, and the Gospel Imagination*, and will perform along with **Lindsay Wright**, Assistant Professor of Music at Yale.

*Hosted by Patricia & Davis Gammon, Hamden*



## In-Person Dinner Party • Saturday, February 18 • 7 p.m. EST

### 15. GIVE ME LIBERTY *Saturday 2/18 at 7 p.m.*

Share in the fight for civil rights, civil liberties and racial justice with **Deborah Archer**, first person of color to be President of the ACLU, and Co-Director, Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Program, who will discuss the power and persistence of racial inequality. Archer began her leadership in 2021 at a pivotal moment for the ACLU, as the U.S. grapples with white supremacy and a long history of racism.

*Hosted by Miriam Gohara & Marcus McFerren, Woodbridge*

## In-Person Dinner Party • Saturday, February 25 • 7 p.m. EST

### 16. FREEDOM READS *Saturday 2/25 at 7 p.m.*

Break bread with 2021 MacArthur Fellow **Reginald Dwayne Betts**—poet, lawyer, and prison reform advocate. Betts is the Executive Director of Freedom Reads, a not-for-profit organization radically transforming access to literature in prisons through the installation of Freedom Libraries in prisons across the country.

*Hosted by Roxanne & Kevin Coady and Alva Greenberg, New Haven*

### 17. CRIME TIME *Saturday 2/25 at 7 p.m.*

History comes to life when **Beverly Gage**, Professor of History and American Studies at Yale, reflects on the impact of J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Director for 50 years, in her new book, *G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century*. Named one of the top ten books of 2022 by the Washington Post and a New York Times Notable Book of 2022.

*Hosted by Cynthia Farrar & Paul Kennedy, New Haven*

### 18. PRESCRIPTION FOR EQUALITY *Saturday 2/25 at 7 p.m.*

Join an important discussion about the disparities in healthcare access with Doctors **Emily Wang**, 2022 MacArthur Fellow and Director of the SEICHE Center for Health and Justice (a collaboration between the Yale Medical and Law Schools), and **Dowin Boatright**, an emergency medicine physician at NYU. Learn about factors that can improve the health of those impacted by mass incarceration.

*Hosted by Renu & Dowin Boatright at the Elm City Club, New Haven*

### 19. MUSIC IN THE NIGHT *Saturday 2/25 at 7 p.m.*

A concert exploring song: **The Elm City Quintet** journeys from Renaissance madrigals, through Italian opera, the ground-breaking Porgy and Bess, and the Great American Songbook. For over 15 years, the Quintet has delighted local audiences with music by artists from a range of other occupations who come together in the name of music and the social good.

*Hosted by Mona Endicott & Petra Frisell, New Haven*



## OPTION 2 • Conversations on Zoom

- Guests of Honor will present to attendees in a meeting format
- Depending on the group size, attendees may ask the Guest(s) of Honor questions verbally or via chat during the Q&A following the presentation.
- Dinner-Included Tickets are available. Guests may choose from a participating local restaurant (listed in the dinner choices section) and pick up their dinners the afternoon of the event.
- First-Time Attendee Tickets and Non-Dinner Tickets are also available.

## Zoom Conversations • Thursday, February 23 • 6:30 p.m. EST

### 20. COMFORT FOOD

We've got all the right ingredients for a terrific evening with **Jennifer Clair**, chef and owner of Home Cooking, New York, a culinary school geared to home chefs. Cook in community and prepare subtly spiced tomato-cream sauced chicken tikka masala (vegetarian option available), savory homemade garlic naan, and refreshing raita right in your own kitchen. With two decades of teaching in-person and virtual cooking classes, Jennifer will guide you as you prepare your own dinner, with all the ingredients delivered to you.

*Hosted by Maureen Weaver & Rob Leighton on Zoom • Dinner-Included Ticket required.*

### 21. WARMING UP...FOR THE FIGHT

Leading the fight to save our planet, passionate environmentalists **Bill McKibben** and **Mary Evelyn Tucker** will speak of possible and more affordable solutions to the growing damage from global warming. Recipient of the Gandhi Peace Award, McKibben is an award-winning author, activist and educator as the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College. Tucker is Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar at Yale School of the Environment and Co-Director of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology.

*Hosted by Sue McDonald & Corey Stone on Zoom*

### 22. A MATTER OF CIVILITY

Enjoy that rarest of conversations, one characterized by civility and interest in diverse and divergent opinions with **Emily Bazelon**, staff writer at the New York Times Magazine, and **Ross Douthat**, New York Times Op-Ed columnist.

*Hosted by Allie Perry & Charlie Pillsbury on Zoom*

### 23. THE BIG PICTURE

Join a conversation with LEAP alumna **Shana C. Waterman**, head of film and television, Royal Ties Productions, and New Haven native **Frank Chi**, director of social justice short films, including the recently acclaimed documentary *38 At The Garden* about Jeremy Lin's 2012 Linsanity season with the New York Knicks. They will share the challenges and joys of developing entertainment for multicultural audiences.

*Hosted by Erin Davis & Clifton Watson on Zoom*

## Dinner Choices

A Dinner-Included Ticket for a Conversation on Zoom (dinners #21, 22, 23, or #5), includes dinner from one of these local restaurants. Each restaurant will offer at least two three-course dinner choices, including appetizer or salad, entrée, and dessert, viewable on [www.leapforkids.org/LYE](http://www.leapforkids.org/LYE). Pick up your dinner from the restaurant the afternoon of the event.

Food allergies/dietary restrictions can be accommodated at most restaurant choices. Guests make their dinner choices when they buy their tickets.

The number of Dinner-Included Zoom Tickets are limited for each restaurant.

### All Conversations on Zoom will have dinners available from these restaurants:

**Caffé Bravo** (East Rock, New Haven) • Established in 1994, Caffé Bravo offers quality Italian cuisine and other European specialties.

**Union League** (Downtown, New Haven) • Brasserie combining French classical traditions with a more contemporary approach to flavors, textures, and locally sourced ingredients.

**Sandra's Next Generation** (The Hill, New Haven) • Chicken, pork, fish and vegetables infused with love and a blend of seasonings to create soul food.

**September in Bangkok** (Downtown, New Haven) • Named the best Thai food in New Haven.



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If you are unable to join this year's event, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support LEAP's free programs. Mail a check to LEAP (31 Jefferson Street, New Haven, CT 06511) or donate online at [leapforkids.org/donate](http://leapforkids.org/donate).

## TICKET INFORMATION

**Seats will fill quickly, so we urge you to buy tickets as soon as you can! Please purchase tickets online at [www.leapforkids.org/LYE](http://www.leapforkids.org/LYE).**

If you need assistance purchasing tickets online, please call us at 203-767-7413 or 203-773-0770 or email Alison at [abonds@leapforkids.org](mailto:abonds@leapforkids.org) and we can help you complete your reservation.

Choose between two **Conversation Options**:

#### OPTION 1 • In-Person Dinner Parties

- This is a traditional LEAP Year Event dinner.
- Each dinner party will be limited to approximately 20 participants including the Hosts and Guest(s) of Honor.
- Requires Dinner-Included Ticket.
- Dinner will be provided by the hosts.
- Tickets are first-come, first-served, so sign up early!
- Participants will be required to test as appropriate before in-person dinner parties.
- It is possible that some in-person dinner parties shift to virtual events due to COVID-19.
- For testing updates and any COVID-19-related changes, please see our website and emails.

#### OPTION 2 • Conversations on Zoom

- Guests of Honor share their expertise with attendees followed by an open Q&A.
- A limited number of Dinner-Included tickets are available for guests who wish to choose dinner from a selection of local restaurants.
- Non-Dinner tickets are unlimited.
- First Time Attendee Tickets are also available.

#### TICKET TYPES

**All tickets include admission to the virtual reception.**

##### First Time Attendee Ticket \$75

Curious about LEAP Year Event but haven't joined before? We are offering a First Time Attendee Ticket at a significant discount for Conversations on Zoom. Ticket does not include dinner.

##### Non-Dinner Ticket \$95

Want to join LEAP Year Event without a dinner? Tuning in from far away? This ticket will offer you the LEAP Year Event Experience, *sans* dinner, but with a conversation on Zoom.

##### Dinner-Included Ticket \$150

You love LEAP, you love the event, and you love sharing a meal in someone's home or supporting local restaurants. This ticket will provide you the traditional experience of fine dining and engaging topics! For a dinner party, you will eat dinner at the host's home or restaurant. For a Zoom conversation, pick up your dinner at a local restaurant on the afternoon of the event.

#### Tax-deductible portion of Ticket Types:

First Time Attendee: \$75  
Non-Dinner: Single \$95  
Dinner-Included: Single \$125

Contact the LEAP Development Office with questions at 203-767-7413 or 203-773-0770 or email [abonds@leapforkids.org](mailto:abonds@leapforkids.org).

#### Ticket purchases based on availability.

Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and your placement will be confirmed immediately. Please provide contact information for you and your guests. Indicate dinner choices if you are purchasing Dinner-Included tickets for a Zoom Conversation.